F.O.
371
24101

32

1939

GENERAL

REFUGEES

W14018
129
26 SEP 1939

Registry Number } W 14018/3231/48

FROM Netherlands Minister.

No. 3235
Immediate.

Dated 25th Sept., 1939

Received in Registry } 26th Sept., 1939

General : Refugees.

Entry into the United Kingdom of German refugees in the Netherlands.

Requests authorities be approached with a view to the admission to the United Kingdom of German refugees in the Netherlands.

These refugees were allowed to enter the Netherlands on the understanding that they would be admitted into the United Kingdom but their visas have become invalid.

Last Paper.

W13922

References.

See W13792
W13419

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

15. HO
(u/c Mr Cooper)
8. Mr Jeffes (P.C.O)
Sept. 27

(Minutes.)

This is unfortunate but is entirely due to the war and would not very well have been helped. At a meeting of the Cabinet sub-Ctee on Refugees on Sept. 25th. it was decided that while no refugees who were in Germany at the outbreak of war would be admitted to the U.K., it might be possible to let in a few refugees from Holland or other neutral countries. But these cases would have to be carefully considered. On the basis of this decision it might be possible if the H.O. and S.C. Dept agree to admit the refugees mentioned in this letter. It is clearly important that we should try and meet

(Action completed.) Jm 27/10

(Index.) RC 7/10.

Next Paper.

(W14435)

19963 9/39 F.O.1.

ted with the Appeal in this way. I regret having to come to this decision as I realise ~~that~~ the work that you and others will be putting in to try and help people in very distressing circumstances and we both of us would be very glad to send a subscription.

The Home Office have been consulted.

27.6.39.

I told Mr. Swann we concurred, provided Ho. did.

A.M.G.R.
27/VI

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1939

W

REFUGEES

W10154
39
4 JUL 1939

Registry Number } W 10154/10154/48

FROM Foreign Office Minute (Mr. Randall)

No.

Dated 3rd July, 1939.

Received in Registry } 4th July, 1939.

W : Refugees.

Settlement of refugees in Iraq.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies asked whether it would be possible to follow up the suggestion made by Iraqi representatives during the talks on Palestine, that Iraq might be prepared to settle up to 20,000 Jews in the north of the country.

Last Paper.

References.

See E 1915/6/31

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Dft. Sir B. Newton (Bagdad) from Mr Randall. July. 11

14.C.O. July. 12

Mr Randall.

(Action completed.) Jm 14/8

(Index.)

Next Paper.

W 11397

(Minutes.)

See within

Please see page 12 of the record in E 1915/6/31. I don't think the record confirms that the Iraqi delegate said that Iraq alone might take 20,000 Jews. He does not appear to have committed himself to any figure. The figure of 20,000 was mentioned by Mr MacDonald.

I submit a draft to Bagdad

Eastern Dept

O'Reilly 7/7

I was present at the meeting in question, and my impression was that Tawfiq Suwaidi meant to say that it was not practical politics

politics to enquire into the Iraqi Govt could agree to any Jewish immigration into Iraq in present circumstances.

A revised draft to Sir B. Newton is attached for consideration.

C W Baxter
10/7

WJR
12/7

W10154
4 JUL 1939

Eastern Department.

The Secretary of State for Colonies, after a Cabinet Sub-Committee Meeting on refugees this morning, asked me whether it would not be possible to follow up the suggestion which he said had been made by the Iraqi representatives during the talks on Palestine, that Iraq might on certain conditions be prepared to take up to twenty thousand Jewish refugees and settle them in the north of the country.

Mr MacDonald agreed that the Iraqi offer might not have been seriously meant, but in view of the great difficulty in finding outlets for refugees he asked that the Foreign Office should go into the question.

A.W.G. Randall

3rd July 1939.

OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

11th July, 1939.

(W 10154/10154/48)

Dear Newton,

You may perhaps remember that in the course of an informal discussion which took place with the Delegates of Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia to the Palestine Conference on the 10th March, the Secretary of State for the Colonies suggested to them that the "Neighbouring States" might help with the problem of Jewish refugees by themselves taking a certain number of these refugees and so reducing the pressure on Palestine. You will see from page 12 of the record of the meeting in question (P.C.(39)31), which was sent to you on the 14th March, that Saiyid Taufiq Suwaidi indicated that opinion in Iraq would have to be prepared before anything of the sort could be regarded as possible, but added that if the Palestinian question were settled, the immigration of Jews into Iraq might no longer be regarded as a threat.

and/

Sir Basil Newton, K.C.M.G.

Bagdad.

and in due course something might be done.

2. We realise of course that too much reliance cannot be placed on Saiyid Taufiq Suwaidi's words, which may only have been meant as a polite form of saying that Jewish immigration into Iraq was not practical politics. But in view of the great difficulty of finding outlets for Jewish refugees from Central Europe and of the consequent increase of illegal immigration into Palestine, which is becoming a most serious and embarrassing problem, we feel that we must not neglect any possible alternative outlets, however unlikely, and the Secretary of State for the Colonies has asked whether it would not be possible to follow up the Iraqi Delegate's remarks.

3. Now that a section of the Jewish population in Palestine has unfortunately embarked in its turn on a policy of terrorism, anti-Jewish feeling in Iraq must be more inflamed than ever, and the Iraqi Government may well consider that they have quite enough on their hands protecting the existing Jewish element in the country, without accepting new and unpopular responsibilities. On the other hand, viewed dispassionately, the right kind

of/

of immigrant should be a useful addition to Iraq, while it is as much in the interests of the Iraqi Government as it is in our own that the pressure of immigration on Palestine should slacken.

4. We should, therefore, be very grateful for your observations on the possibility of Jewish immigration into Iraq, now or in the not too remote future. There would be no objection at this end to your discussing the matter unofficially with General Nuri, if you hold that this would serve any purpose other than to cause him irritation.

Yours ever

(Sgd.) A. W. G. RANDALL

Settlement of Refugees in Iraq. Code 48 File 10154. 1939. MS Refugee Records from the General Correspondence Files of the Political Departments of the Foreign Office, Record Group 371, 1938-1950 FO 371/24101/10154. The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom). Refugees, Relief, and Resettlement, link.gale.com/apps/doc/GUQYND013974606/RRRW?u=omni&sid=bookmark-RRRW&pg=5. Accessed 1 Jan. 2025.